

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-17, 21-27, 29, 50, 51, 59, 66 and 67 are pending. Claims 8, 13, and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve their right to prosecute subject matter of cancelled claims in subsequent applications. Claims 2-7, 10-12, 15-17, 22, 24-27, 50, 51, 58, 59, 66 and 67 are allowed.

Claims 9, 14 and 29 have been amended to make them dependent upon non-cancelled claims.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, and under first paragraph, as allegedly being not described in the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections. However, to advance prosecution of certain embodiments of the present invention, claims 8, 13, and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 9, 14 and 29 have been amended to be dependent upon non-cancelled claims.

These amendments overcome these rejections, and Applicants request their withdrawal.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

1. Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Palli et al. (US 2002/0119521 A1).
2. Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Albertsen et al. (US 6,504,082 B1). In particular,

Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections, however, in order to advance prosecution of certain embodiments of the present invention, claims 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. These amendments make these rejections moot.

In view of the above amendments, it is submitted that the application is now ready for allowance. If any additional information is needed, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 765-5071.

Respectfully submitted,

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